

[Back to Environment home page](#)

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur announced today that she has secured \$2.5 million for land acquisition at the Fallen Timbers Battlefield in Maumee, Ohio. Prior legislation authorizing the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site, which was signed into law last December, did not include the actual appropriation of federal funds for land acquisition. Kaptur has stated this initiative as a top priority for the Second Session of this Congress and inserted the key provision to authorize federal funds in the final version of the fiscal 2001 appropriation bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kaptur serves as the chief Democratic member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

Subsequently, at Kaptur's insistence, the \$2.5 million was identified as a key national priority and specifically designated for the battlefield in a letter to the Secretary of Interior from Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees dated October 26, 2000.

"I am thrilled that we have put in place the critical federal share to secure and designate the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site," said Congresswoman Kaptur. "Congress passed legislation last year that allowed us to achieve a National Park Service designation for the Fallen Timbers Battlefield. But that earlier bill did not include the actual federal funds for land purchases at this national historic site. Today we anchor the federal dollars for acquisition. This is a giant step forward toward preserving our nation's early heritage – "America's First Frontier: The Northwest Territory" – whose deep roots originated right here in Northwest Ohio," said Kaptur.

In 1992, Congresswoman Kaptur was able to obtain the initial \$150,000.00 from the National Park Service for the development of a stewardship plan for the Maumee River Heritage Corridor. This plan identified the Fallen Timbers Battlefield as an historical site of national significance and led to last year's congressional action designating the battlefield as an Affiliated Site of the National Park Service.

This past June, the City of Toledo and Toledo Metroparks reached a sale and purchase agreement on the Fallen Timbers Battlefield site. Just over half of the purchase price agreed to is committed through the City of Maumee, Lucas County, and the State of Ohio. Kaptur had committed to seeking additional federal assistance to complete the purchase of the site and for development and interpretation and has done so with this action.

In addition, the letter to the Department of Interior allocates \$1 million for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands for the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which was also requested by Kaptur. This allocation brings to over \$4.5 million in improvements and land acquisitions which Kaptur has secured since commissioning a broad study of the Lake Erie Basin by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1991. As a result of the report, Protecting Lake Erie's Western Basin: An Agenda for the 1990's, Rep Kaptur has committed to an ongoing effort to create a "green necklace" along the Western shore of Lake Erie and has systematically directed resources toward improvements to the Refuge and the greater Maumee Bay area.